

<i>Situational Report</i>
COVID-19 Mandate Protests Operational Impacts
February 7, 2022 – 12:45

Background

On January 15, 2022, an Order of Council (OIC) was put in place to mandate vaccinations for commercial truck drivers crossing the border. As a result, commercial truck drivers around the country have organized and started protesting outside port of entries (POEs) by blocking roads and slowing traffic, along with a convoy of commercial vehicles headed towards Ottawa to protest outside Parliament.

Bottom Line:

- As of February 7, 2022, at 1219 ET, SOR IEOD is monitoring a slow-roll convoy in Windsor, currently nearing Huron Church Rd. Uncorroborated intel indicates plans for blockade at Ambassador Bridge, but Windsor Tunnel will remain open for emergency vehicles. Between 70-100 vehicles have been observed and social media suggests the intent is to occupy the area around Ambassador Bridge in a “bear hug” and shut it down. Windsor Police Service has set up at the intersection of Huron Church and College Streets.
- As of February 7, 2022 at 1203 ET Ambassador Bridge advised that US CBP is experiencing IT issues that are causing a back up of US bound traffic onto Huron Church Rd, which may amplify the impacts of the protest convoy in the area.

Upcoming protest events:

Upcoming Events		
ONGOING	CONFIRMED	UNCONFIRMED
- Ottawa – February 7, 2022, Parliament Hill protest continues - Coutts – North and South bound traffic is flowing with one lane open in each direction and gates are open. Protestors continue to line the highway north of the POE.	- Ottawa – February 7, 2022, protests continue at Parliament Hill and downtown. - Windsor Convoy for Freedom 2022 – February 7, 2022	CANADA: US: - Washington, US Capital - February 8 and 9, 2022, US Freedom Convoy EUROPE: - Brussels - Freedom Convoy Europe 2022 (Unconfirmed)

US Protestors Identified at Port of Entries

- Reports received from CBSA POEs regarding Enhanced Vigilance Exams of potential protestors:

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POE	Vehicle #	Enhanced vigilance exams (PAX #)	Direct Back	Allowed to Leave	Granted Entry	Comments
Pac Hwy Traffic, PAC	2	3	3	0		Wrong turns attempting to protest at Peace Arch Park.
Douglas, PAC	10	21	18	3		Wrong turns attempting to protest at Peace Arch Park.
Lansdowne, NOR	1	2			2	Journalists looking to document the protests in Ottawa. Provided necessary credentials and had equipment consistent with their stated purpose of travel.
Prescott, NOR	1	1			1	Unvaccinated Cdn citizen/US resident has been directed to quarantine by CBSA and PHAC
Sault Ste. Marie, NOR	2	2	1			- U.S. citizen attempting to join protest in Ottawa. - Feb 5: Cdn citizen expressing extremist views refused to comply with COVID entry requirements and ran the port
Total	16	29	22	3	3	

Atlantic Region

- No impacts to CBSA operations reported

Quebec Region

- Media reports on February 6, 2022, that Quebec City Convoy protestors have announced intentions to return in two weeks, coinciding with the end of the Carnaval de Quebec. No impacts to CBSA operations reported

Northern Ontario Region

- No impact to CBSA operations reported.

Greater Toronto Area Region

- No impact to CBSA operations reported.

Southern Ontario Region

Blue Water Bridge

- No impact to CBSA operations reported.

Ambassador Bridge

- As of 1219 ET on February 7, 2022, SOR IEOD is monitoring a slow-roll convoy as it nears Huron Church Road in Windsor. Uncorroborated intel via social media posts and chatter over Zello is that there will be a

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blockade at Ambassador Bridge. Social media posts state that Windsor Tunnel will remain open for emergency vehicles. Between 70-100 vehicles, consisting mainly of personal cars, some tractor trailers and one tractor as the lead vehicle have been observed at 2 staging points. Information is that there are semi's strategically placed throughout the county off of the 401 highway that are ready to join the convoy and they plan to occupy the area around Ambassador Bridge in a "bear hug" and shut it down. Windsor Police Service has set up at the intersection of Huron Church and College Streets, and increased presence near one of the staging points. SOR will provide adhoc reporting to the BOC as the situation develops and will report POE impacts via the SRT as they occur.

- As of 1203 ET, on February 7, 2022, Ambassador Bridge POE reported that U.S. CBP is experiencing IT issues, causing a back up of US bound traffic onto Huron Church Rd. The back up is not directly related to the protest convoy, but may amplify the impacts of the protest convoy in the area.

Prairie Region

Commercial Traffic Volumes

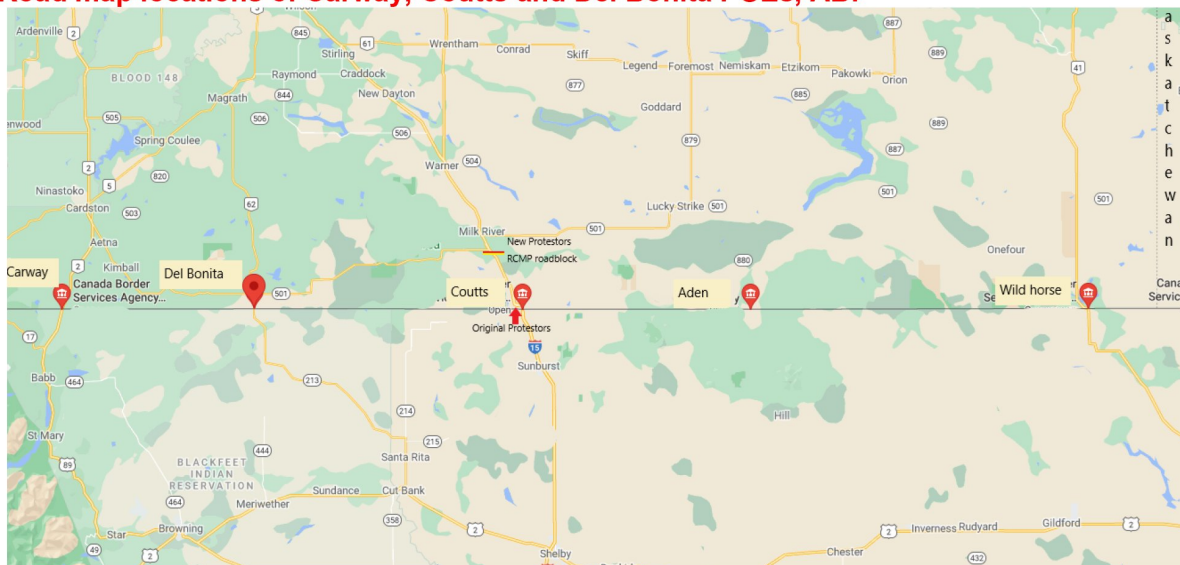
# Passages (Persons)	2022-01-22	2022-01-23	2022-01-24	2022-01-25	2022-01-26	2022-01-27	2022-01-28	2022-01-29	2022-01-30	2022-01-31	2022-02-01	2022-02-02	2022-02-03	2022-02-04	2022-02-05	2022-02-06
	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Coutts Travellers	234	253	188	251	177	232	286	202	22	20	11	9	44	74	68	180
Coutts Commercial*	397	372	361	349	479	588	519	262	23	0	0	0	72	121	150	177
Del Bonita	0	0	43	8	19	33	25	0	0	186	225	173	224	172	0	0
Carway	47	78	29	21	24	28	30	35	211	127	132	97	90	81	139	161
Aden	1	0	0	1	2	0	4	3	32	11	17	8	13	14	14	14
Other Commercial POEs																
Regway	41	30	57	40	46	64	63	39	78	66	117	85	103	85	49	49
Roosville	72	150	105	70	143	146	146	99	271	223	167	169	187	155	131	226
North Portal Travellers	43	35	74	59	48	71	73	73	83	72	69	53	66	94	59	71
North Portal Commercial	335	258	205	290	316	393	377	334	280	223	268	458	426	305	322	351

- As of February 7, 2022, 0930 ET, Prairie Region shared information on unconfirmed social media posts about expanding protests to include the International Peace Gardens at Boissevain, MB. One of the attachments also references North Portal.

Coutts

- As of February 7, 2022 at 0900ET, CBSA processing continues with no issues

Road map locations of Carway, Coutts and Del Bonita POEs, AB:



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Pacific Region

- No impact to CBSA operations reported

Intelligence and Enforcement

Intelligence Landscape

BLUF: As of February 7, 2022 at 0830 ET, the overall threat to CBSA officers and infrastructure is low.

ANALYSIS:

General Threats

- **No change to posture.** According to the RCMP, no formal organized plot of violence has been identified. Factors such as the circulation of misinformation, exhaustion, substance abuse, altercations amongst protesters and with law enforcement and the influence of ideologically motivated actors or charismatic speakers may impact the temperature of the crowd. The potential for violence by a lone actor or fringe group cannot be discounted.
- **The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) tweeted on FEB6 at 14:30 ET that enforcement is underway and "anyone attempting to bring material supports to the demonstrations could be subject to arrest". The City of Ottawa declared a state of emergency at 16:15 ET.**
- **No update.** Partners received reports that a member of the public who claimed to work for CBSA (unconfirmed) was at the Marriott/Hampton Inn near the old RCMP HQ and stated that she heard Queen Romana DIDULO/Queen of Canada was planning to bomb Parliament via the tunnel system. No other information was obtained as the complainant stated they had to go and drove off to possibly do security at the parking lot where the truckers have been staying all week next to the hotel. Vehicle plate was snow covered. Partners could not corroborate these claims at this time. RCMP INSET has been notified. CBSA NOR Intelligence continuing to monitor situation.
- **No update.** Demonstrations also occurred at the Ottawa International Airport. Airport Authority confirmed they were aware of demonstrators on the ramp on the departure level (3rd floor). CBSA was not advised of any implications. No operational impact.
- **No update.** Partners received information that an individual may be supplying weapons to protestors. This individual may have been previously imprisoned in the Yukon for weapons trafficking. Partners is undertaking OSINT to gather additional information about this individual.
- **OPS intelligence advise of a Discord chat "World Freedom Information Hub" which mentions that "convoy to Ottawa and convoy east" have a plan in place and are organizing a new convoy to Ottawa.**

POE Threats

- **An ongoing analysis of SRT reporting, OSINT, s.38 [REDACTED] indicates that there are no credible threats currently identified for any POE.**
- **No update.** Information from the RCMP, the media and social media indicate that the protesters at Coutts discussed moving to Edmonton, perhaps influenced by a number of United Conservative Party MLAs who expressed their support for lifting COVID restrictions. Currently the protesters at Coutts have not left the area and are continuing their protests at Coutts and Milk River approximately 20 kilometres north of Coutts. Media reports indicate that the protesters have brought in supplies to continue the protests at the current locations.
- **As of FEB6:2000 ET the Blue Water Bridge blockade has been completely cleared. As of 11:11 ET the convoy vehicles (farm and commercial) began to block all 5 lanes approaching the Toll lanes of the Blue Water Bridge on the Westbound side of the highway and blocked all traffic heading into the US, but, roads for entry into Canada were clear. SOR reporting at around 1840 indicated that other truckers who were being obstructed at the POE were growing upset and the blockade later cleared the area.**
- **As of FEB6:2100 ET traffic leading to the Ambassador bridge area is no longer impacting CBSA operations. At 1930 ET Huron road was backed up roughly 6 KM, due to the redirection of traffic from Blue Water Bridge, which affected the arrival of CBSA BSOs to the POE. As of 20:52 ET it was backed up to the Expressway which is approximately 4.5 KM from the port but not considered to have any serious impact. A**

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SOR report also indicated that there are calls from a public group to “shut down” the Ambassador bridge tomorrow (FEB7) through Facebook with a link to a Telegram group. They are asking for heavy equipment (tractors etc.) but there is currently no further information.

- **No update.** Preliminary unconfirmed reports indicate a potential blockade at Fort Erie and Montreal starting on Sunday, 2022-02-06. The blockage plan is a co-ordinated effort by commercial trucks to block incoming laneways to CBSA and US CBP lanes at the POEs.

Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism (IMVE)

- According to the RCMP, while chatter encouraging peaceful and lawful protest continues to circulate, concerns exist that protest events associated with the convoy could be exploited by individuals who engage in or promote actions that pose a risk to public and officer safety. **To date there has been one reported POE encounter with an individual expressing extremist ideology. On Feb 5th, an individual ran the port at Sault Ste. Marie after expressing support for QAnon influencer Romana Didulo: “Queen Ramona has lifted all the mandates. The Trudeau Government has fallen and the Alliance is in charge. Queen Ramona has told us to report anyone who enforcing these mandates.” In 2021 Didulo supporters in Canada had hand delivered fake “cease and desist” orders to the Carson, Cascade, Paterson, Waneta, Nelway, Rykert, & Kingsgate POEs. In 2021 Didulo urged her armed followers to kill individuals involved in administering the COVID vaccination program and also any individuals who enforce government mandated COVID restrictions or requirements for vaccination.**

Other Threats

- **Ongoing threat.** The size, unorganized potential and general distraction of some these POE protests continue to create conditions where both criminal actors and migrants may use the events to illegally cross the border into Canada. This may also include protesters who wish to join events on the Canadian side of the border, but do not want to report to Border Service Officers.
- **No update.** US news sites are reporting that Facebook has removed the Facebook pages associated to “Convoy to D.C. 2022” being used to organize truckers to drive from California to Washington D.C. Media reporting states that Facebook has also removed the pages for the other planned US-based protest convoys originating in Texas and Florida. Social media and news websites in the US indicated that there is an online movement, which was focused on Facebook pages entitled “Freedom Convoy 2022”, to organize protest convoys of US truckers from Texas and Florida which would converge on Washington D.C. with tentative planned arrival time in D.C. of February 8th. The organizers of Freedom Convoy 2022 reportedly moved their online operations to Telegram, with at least 28,000 individuals joining that Telegram page. There is no reporting at this time to indicate that the proposed US convoys plan to enter Canada.

Communications

- **Over the weekend of February 5 and 6, 2022, CBSA Media Relations received and responded to one media call asking for an update on the situation at Coutts. The same response used in previous calls was used.**

Other Governmental Departments

- **As of February 7, 2022 at 10:30, partner agency reports no demonstrators reported to be on Parliament Hill, and no demonstrators on Wellington St. and in the downtown core. Ottawa Police Service estimate that there are 500 trucks in the downtown core. The situation remains stable.**
- **An emergency council meeting is set for 1300 ET February 7, 2022 to address the "impact of the truck convoy demonstration of the city's residents and businesses."**
- **Media reports that court challenges to workplace vaccine mandates are siding with the employer continuing to enforce vaccination policies in order to maintain safe workplaces during a pandemic, however with the caveat that the charter limitations, these restrictions are by their nature temporary, not permanent.**

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